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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 09/613,903 07/11/2000 1446 Heather J. Jordan 0942.4450001 26111 7590 05/08/2006 **EXAMINER** STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC SISSON, BRADLEY L 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER WASHINGTON, DC 20005 1634

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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## **Commissioner for Patents**

The timely submission under 37 CFR 1.129(a) filed on 09 March 2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action mailed 12 December 2005 because it does not address the issues of rejection. Since the submission appears to be a bona fide attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office communication mailed 31 January 2006, applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a complete reply. This shortened statutory period supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action. This time period may be extended pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). If a notice of appeal and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r) were filed prior to or with the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r), the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r) by applicant is construed as a request to dismiss the appeal and to continue prosecution under 37 CFR 1.129(a). The appeal stands dismissed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley L. Sisson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0751. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Ram Shukla, can be reached on 571-272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bradley L. Sisson Primary Examiner

Art Unit: 1634